

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 /052 W

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O R 192220Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6809

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO USCINCSO

PANCANAL

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BRASILIA PLEASE PASS SEC DEL

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PN

SUBJ: TORRIJOS FLYS TO CARACAS UNEXPECTEDLY

1. CENTRAL AMERICAN/SPANISH NEWS AGENCY ACAN-EFE REPORTED THIS AFTERNOON (FEB 13) THAT HEAD OF BGOVERNMENT GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS PAID

AN UNEXPECTED VISIT TODAY TO CARACAS. TO QUOTE THE BRIEF NEWS ITEM:

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS SUDDEN TRIP BY GENERAL TORRIJOS IS REPORTEDLY

RELATED TO (SECRETARY) KISSINGER'S RECENT VISIT TO VENEZUELA AND TO THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT CONTINUE HERE ON CONTADORA ISLAND."

2. ACCORDING TO THE ACAN ITEM, TORRIJOS IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PANAMA THIS EVENING. NO MENTION OF THIS SUPRISE VISIT HAS BEEN MADE SO FAR IN THE PANAMA CITY NEWSPAPERS, ONLY FBIS PICKED IT UP.

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3. COMMENT. GENERAL TORRIJOS FREQUENTLY EXERCISES HIS PENCHANT FOR SURPRISE VISITS TO NEIGHBORING CAPITALS. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY QUERY VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT PEREZ ON WHAT THE LATTER SAID TO THE SECRETARY ABOUT THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPLY.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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